

Application must be removed as a Section 102(e) reference and the Examiner's rejection of claims 1, 4, 5-11, 35-37 withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

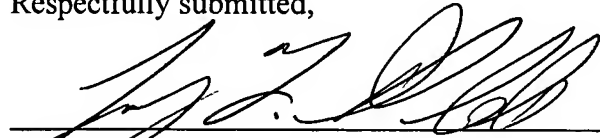
The Examiner rejected claims 9, 10 and 37 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over the Self Application in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,776,246 B1 issued to Nickel et al (the "Nickel Patent"). Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this rejection.

The Self Application was cited as prior art to the present application only under Section 102(e) because the Examiner believed the Self Application has an earlier effective filing date. As discussed above, the present application has an effective filing date of November 26, 2002; the Self Application has an effective filing date of March 31, 2003. Therefore, the Self Application does not have an earlier effective filing date and is not a proper prior art reference under Section 102(e). Accordingly, the Section 103(a) rejection of claims 9, 10, and 37 must be withdrawn.

It is submitted that the claims are allowable and a Notice of Allowance courteously is solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this application, Applicants' attorney would welcome the opportunity to discuss the same with the Examiner.

This is intended to be a complete response to the Office Action mailed October 21, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,



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